Jaime Dole

From: Aregood, Ellen <earegood@madison-schools.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 9:18 AM

To: Williamson, Shay

Subject: Summons - Emily Thomas

Attachments: DOC011019-01102019091048.pdf

This came in late yesterday afternoon.

Ellen Aregood Assistant to the Superintendent, Board Secretary Madison County Schools 476 Highland Colony Pkwy Ridgeland, MS 39157 601.499.0707

IN THE CIRCUIT COUPT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

EMILY T. THOMAS

DEC 10 2018

PLAINTIFF

ANITA WRAY, TREUIT CLERK

VS.

D.C.
CIVIL ACTION NO.

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEFENDANT

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMES NOW Plaintiff Emily T. Thomas and files this Complaint against the Defendant Madison County School District alleging the following:

PARTIES

- The Plaintiff, Emily T. Thomas, is an adult female resident citizen of Madison
 County, Mississippi.
- 2. The Defendant, Madison County School District, is a county public school organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Mississippi. The Madison County School District can be served with process by service upon its superintendent, Kimber Halliburton, whose address is 476 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

IURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This court has concurrent civil rights jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1343 for a cause of action arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
 - 4. This Court has concurrent federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C.

§ 1331.

5. This Court has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over the Defendant and venue is proper in this Court.

6. Plaintiff timely filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (hereinafter "EEOC") on or about May 14, 2018. (See Charge of Discrimination, attached hereto as Ex. "A"). The EEOC issued a Notice of Right to Sue on September 24, 2018. (See Right to Sue Letter, attached hereto as Ex. "B"). Plaintiff timely files this cause of action within ninety (90) days of receipt of her Notice of Right to Sue.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 7. Plaintiff Emily T. Thomas worked as the Date Clerk and Bookkeeper for Camden Elementary School in the Madison County School District until her constructive discharge on or about August 20, 2018. From approximately October 2017 until the date of her constructive termination, Plaintiff's supervising principal, Fannie Green, subjected Plaintiff on many occasions to false accusations of fraternizing with teachers and gossiping, placed Plaintiff on an 'in-house action plan' that violated school district policy, slandered her reputation, harassed her in the workplace, exhibited racial discrimination against her in both words and deed, and used her position as principal to prevent Plaintiff from seeking a transfer to another school. Other employees have also been berated and accused of various perceived shortcomings or failures by this principal as well, which constitutes bullying and racially hostile behavior.
- 8. The bullying and racially hostile behavior exhibited by Principal Green towards
 Plaintiff eventually worsened to the point that Plaintiff had no other choice but to tender her

resignation. (See Ex. "C", Letter of Resignation). The harassment suffered by Plaintiff was so severe and pervasive that any reasonable employee in comparable circumstances would have felt compelled to resign. Plaintiff now files the instant complaint for damages.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

RACE DISCRIMINATION, RETALIATION AND

CONSTRUCTIVE DISCHARGE

- 9. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the above and foregoing paragraphs 1 through 8.
- 10. Plaintiff was employed by the Defendant as a Data Clerk and Bookkeeper at Camden Elementary School until her constructive discharge on or about August 20, 2018. During her employment at Defendant, Plaintiff received commendations and praise for her work ability and was clearly qualified for the position as she was offered a new contract by Defendant for school year 2018-2019. However, in said capacity, since October 2017 until her constructive termination, Plaintiff was subjected to less favorable terms and conditions of employment than her similarly-situated African-American colleagues. She was further treated differently in the terms and conditions of her employment relative to similarly-situated employees who are not in a protected class in other respects as will be shown at the trial of this cause. Further, when Plaintiff opposed the racially motivated bullying of her supervisor, she was frozen out of duties, had her responsibilities severely curtailed, and was otherwise retaliated against to the extent that she was forced to resign due to the severe and pervasive harassment.

11. By its actions, the Defendant has wrongfully discriminated against, retaliated against and constructively discharged Plaintiff. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of compensatory damages, both equitable and legal, attorneys' fees, and all other damages recoverable at law.

COUNT II

INTENTIONAL/NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 12. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the above and foregoing paragraphs 1 through 11.
- 13. By its actions, the Defendant has negligently and/or intentionally inflicted emotional distress upon Plaintiff. Defendant's actions have been such to evoke outrage and revulsion. Defendant's behavior has been malicious, willful, wanton, grossly careless, indifferent, and/or reckless.
 - 14. The effect of these actions on Plaintiff was reasonably foreseeable.
- 15. Plaintiff has suffered injury as a result of the Defendant's actions for which Defendant is liable in damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff respectfully prays that the Court cause service to issue upon the Defendant and that this matter be set for trial. Upon trial by jury thereon, Plaintiff prays that the following relief be granted:

a. That Plaintiff be awarded her economic damages, including back pay, lost benefits, and other pecuniary losses proximately caused by Defendant's unlawful conduct;

- b. Compensatory damages against Defendant in an amount to be determined by the jury;
- c. All costs, disbursements, pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, expert
 witness fees and reasonable attorney's fees allowed under actions brought
 pursuant to Mississippi law; and
- d. Such further relief as is deemed just and proper.

THIS the Zay of December, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

EMILY T. THOMAS, PLAINTIF

By:

Philip C. Hearn, Esq.

Philip C. Hearn, Esq. (MSB# 9366) HEARN LAW FIRM, P.A. P. O. Box 5009 Jackson, MS 39296-5009 Telephone: 601 720 3541

Telephone: 601.720.3541 Facsimile: 601.969.2161

Email: philiphearn@yahoo.com

Case 3:19-cv-00042-HTW-LRA Document 1-1 Filed 01/16/19 Page 7 of 11

Case: 45Cl1:18-cv-00263-c Document #: 1 Filed: 12/10/2018 Page 6 of 6 FEE BILL, CIVIL CASES, CIRCUIT COURT

State of Mississippi Madison County

Case # CI-2018-0263	Acct #	Paid By	CHECK	1603	Rct#	82124
CA CT	ERK'S FEE			85.00		
CV LA	W LIBRARY			2.50		
CV CO	URT REPORTER TAX			10.00		
CV CO	URT EDUCATION			2.00		
CV CO	URT ADMINISTRATOR			2.00		
CV CI	VIL LEGAL ASSISTA	NCE FUND		5.00		
CV CO	MPREHENSIVE ELECT	RONIC CT		10.00		
CV JU	RY TAX			3.00		
CV CO	nstituents fe			.50		
CV RE	CORDS MANAGEMENT 1	PROGRAM		1.00		
CV-JU	DICIAL SYS OPERAT:	ION FUND		40.00		

Payment received from HEARN LAW FIRM

Transaction 80102 Received 12/11/2018 at 8:51 Drawer 1 I.D. DENDY

Current Balance Due \$0.00 Receipt Amount \$ 161.00

By _______ D.C. ANITA WRAY, Circuit Clerk

Case # CI-2018-0263 Acct # Paid By CHECK 1603 Rct# 82124

FEOC Form 5 (11/09)							
Charge of Discrimination	Charge	ge Presented To: Agency(ies) Charge No(s):					
This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act Statement and other information before completing this form.		FEPA					
	х	EEOC	423-2018-01616				
			and EEOC				
State or local Age	ncy, if any						
Name (Indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.)		Home Phone	Year of Birth				
Mrs. Emily T Thomas		(601) 606-617	4				
Street Address City. State. 527 Arbor Drive, MADISON, MS 39110	and ZIP Code						
Named is the Employer, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Apprenticeship Com Against Me or Others. (If more than two, list under PARTICULARS below.)	mittee, or State or	Local Government Agency	That I Believe Discriminated				
Name		No Employees, Members	Phone No.				
MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT			(601) 499-0800				
Street Address City. State and 71º Code 476 Highland Colony Parkway, RIDGELAND, MS 39157							
Name		No Employees, Members	Phone No.				
Street Address City. State.	and ZIP Code	L	<u> </u>				
DISCRIMINATION BASED ON (Check appropriate Evelos) X RACE							
I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with	NOTARY - When no	vessury for State and Local Ag	ency Requirements				
them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their procedures. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.	I swear or aftirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT						
Digitally signed by Emily Thomas on 05-14-2018 06:36 PM EDT	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORM TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE Amouth, day, your						

Ca	ase: 45CI1:18-cv-00263-c EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNIT	i leConn/35/20 18 Page 1 of 1			
DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS					
527 Art	From: Oor Drive on, MS 39110	Jackson Area Office 100 West Capitol Street Suite 338 Jackson, MS 39269			
	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a)) EEOC Representative	Telephone No.			
EEOC Charge	Mildred J. Stuckey,	(601) 948-8412			
423-2018-0	1616 Enforcement Supervisor	OWING REASON:			
THE EEOC	IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLL. The facts alleged in the charge fall to state a claim under any of the				
	Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Ameri	Cans vviu Disabilities v to			
	The Respondent employs jess than the required number of employ	ees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.			
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, discrimination to file your charge	eroc is unable to conclude that the			
X	The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This confirmation obtained establishes violations are ablest issues that might	be construed as naving been raised by the			
	the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that many the state or local fair employers. The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employers.	byment practices agency unstances of			
	Other (briefly state)				
	- NOTICE OF SUIT RIG (See the additional information attached	ed to this form.)			
Discrimin You may ! lawsuit m	the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of disfile a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law bas ust be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be suited.	ion Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age imissal and of your right to sue that we will send you ed on this charge in federal or state court. Your ee; or your right to sue based on this charge will be be different.)			
40	by Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any victor file suit may not be collectible.				
	On behalf of the	Commission 109/34/3018			
Enclosure	Eszean S. McDur Area Director	ffey, (Date Melled)			
cc:	Shay Williamson Human Resources Director MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 476 Highland Colony Parkway Ridgeland, MS 39157				

August 20, 2018

Ms. Kimber Halliburton, Superintendent Madison County School District 476 Highland Colony Parkway Ridgeland, MS 39157

Dear Ms. Halliburton,

I am submitting this letter to inform you of my immediate resignation from Camden Elementary School as the Data Clerk and Bookkeeper. This resignation is a result of the school district's disregard of the unprofessional, bullying behavior of Fannie Green and the continued inaction on the part of the school district to address the hostile work environment I have been experiencing since October of 2017. Two meetings have been held in an attempt to address the situation: the Grievance Hearing at Central Office on May 8, 2018 with Charlotte Seals, Fannie Green, and myself and the EEOC Mediation Meeting at Federal Building on July 17, 2018 with my attorney, the school district's attorney, Charlotte Seals, Fannie Green, Shay Williamson, and myself, with the school district unwilling to address Fannie Green's behavior towards me.

Ms. Green's behavior towards me has included making false accusations, slander, intimidation, hostility, retribution, racial discrimination, creating a hostile work environment, and "freezing" me out of my responsibilities and job duties at Camden Elementary School. As a result, I will not be continuing to work at Camden Elementary School and it is my intention to file a lawsuit against Fannie Green and the school district.

Please accept this letter as my official notice of resignation from Madison County School District. Due to me are 10 vacation days (August 20-31), 15 sick days (September 4-24), 7 hours sick time and 1 hour of comp time (September 25), and 7 hours of personal time, and 20 minutes of comp time (September 26). Therefore, Tuesday, September 26, 2018 at 2:20 pm will be my official last day with Madison County School District.

With respect,

Emily T. Thomas Data Clerk/Bookkeeper Camden Elementary School



COVER4SHE	ET8-cv-0026	3 COURT I BASSICATION	Mocket 4	Filed: 12/10/2018	P	agedet Prumber
Civil Case Filing	Form	THE TOTAL	I CIN	यागास		1/1/1/2
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		ITTAIT				Local Docket ID
Mississippi Supreme Court	Form AOC/01	Month Date	Year			
Administrative Office of Courts	(Rev 2016)	This area to be com	pleted by deri	k Cas	e Num	ber if filed prior to 1/1/94
In the CIRCUIT		Court of MADISON		County —	Juc	ficial District
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	rive. Madison. M		 			
Attorney (Name & Address) Philip			S_39296		MS B	lar No. <u>9366</u>
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Signature of Individual Filing:		SON C				
Defendant - Name of Defendant	- Enter Additional	Defendants on Separa	rte Form			
Individual			<u> </u>		_	
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Nature of Suit (Place an "X" in o				ren/Minors - Non-Domestic	H	Adverse Possession Electment
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Other	Alcohol	I/Drug Commitment (mountary		ther	님	Other
						EXHIBIT A